

News Release



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California Off-Highway Grant Program Provides Funds for Local Law Enforcement, Off-Highway Recreation

The California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission has allocated grants and cooperative agreements totaling nearly \$5.7 million for off-highway recreation, local off-highway parks and law enforcement in southern California.

The grants, approved by the Commission over two days of hearings January 10-11 in Ontario, California, include \$584,000 allocated to the Imperial County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area, managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management.

The \$5,691,000 in grants is part of the more than \$24.1 million in grant requests that are being considered by the Commission for the 2001/2002 fiscal year. A breakdown shows local agencies received \$1,089,000 of the total; the US Forest Service, \$2,078,000; and the federal Bureau of Land Management, \$2,524,000.

At hearings held in October the Commission allocated grants totaling roughly \$3.9 million of the \$15.5 million total that will be allocated by the Commission. Those grants were earmarked for winter recreation, local off-highway parks and sheriff's departments in northern California. The next Commission meeting will be Feb. 12-13 in Sacramento.

"California State Parks, through its Off-Highway Vehicle Commission, plays a very important role in providing financial assistance to local and federal government agencies to develop and manage existing opportunities for off-highway recreation, and protect the environment at the same time," said State Parks Deputy Director David L. Widell of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division.

Federal agencies – in this case the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management – receive a high percentage of the grant funds through cooperative agreements because they provide off-highway vehicle recreation opportunity that is not available from any other jurisdiction. These agencies control the largest off-highway destinations in California. More than 90 percent of the state's off-highway riding opportunity takes place on federal lands that are managed by the USFS or BLM.

Since 1986, the OHMVR Division has awarded more than \$194 million through grants and cooperative agreements for conservation, law enforcement, land acquisition, development and operation of local and federal off-highway vehicle areas.

The following is a list of the second of three grant allocations for 2001 and 2002 by state Senate and Assembly districts (Note: grants may be included under more than one legislative district because federal lands do not follow district boundaries.):

Senate District 17:

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, \$50,000
Kern County Sheriff's Department, \$65,000
USFS, \$1,058,000
BLM, \$2,110,000

Senate District 18:

USFS, \$650,000

Senate District 21:

USFS, \$406,000

Senate District 29:

USFS, \$406,000

Senate District 31:

BLM, \$1,512,000
USFS, \$464,000
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, \$50,000

Senate District 36:

USFS, \$219,000
San Diego County Sheriff's Department, \$141,000

Senate District 37:

Imperial County Sheriff's Department, \$584,000
Riverside County Sheriff's Department, \$124,000
Cathedral City Police Department, \$35,000
BLM, \$328,000
USFS, \$104,000

Assembly District 23:

USFS, \$652,000

Assembly District 33:

USFS, \$652,000

Assembly District 34:

USFS, \$652,000
BLM, \$504,000
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, \$50,000
Kern County Sheriff's Department, \$65,000

Assembly District 35:

USFS, \$652,000

Assembly District 36:

USFS, \$1,058,000

Assembly District 44:

USFS, \$1,006,000

Assembly District 58:

USFS, \$374,000
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, \$50,000

Assembly District 59:

USFS, \$406,000

Assembly District 61:

USFS, \$374,000
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, \$50,000

Assembly District 63:

USFS, \$374,000

Assembly District 64:

USFS, \$323,000
Riverside County Sheriff's Department, \$124,000

Assembly District 66:

California City, \$90,000
Riverside County Sheriff's Department, \$124,000
San Diego County Sheriff's Department, \$141,000

Assembly District 73:

USFS, \$323,000

Assembly District 75:

USFS, \$104,000

Assembly District 80:

Cathedral City Police Department, \$35,000
Imperial County Sheriff's Department, \$584,000
USFS, \$219,000
BLM, \$422,000

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